EXPRESS OPINION

A clenched fist march

IT is quite right that Mr Ken Livingstone should meet the People's March for Jobs demonstrators as they reach London. His presence clearly illustrates this protest's Left-wing gimmickry.

The GLC leader embraces every militant cause in existence. From Troops Out of Ulster to one-sided disarmament. From Gay Liberation-on-the-rates to freakish feminism.

What more natural than that he should salute the Jobs marchers. The march itself has been poorly supported though no doubt rent-a-mob will be out in force for the rally in London. Walking all of the half-mile from their parked cars.

By coincidence the 120 original marchers arrived from Glasgow as 30,000 Scottish football fans, many from Glasgow, departed London.

The Scots supporters were able to give up a day's pay to come to Wembley on a Wednesday. Probably quite a number are unemployed. However they came, by plane, car, bus or train, they assuredly did not walk. And each spent up to £250 on the jaunt.

Which indicates a standard of living far, far above that which forced men to march in the grim slump of the 'thirties.

Real anger

As our interview today with one of the few surviving Jarrow marchers shows, there is a vast gulf in suffering.

The Jarrow marchers were moved by real anger.

The Jarrow marchers knew real misery. Theirs was a genuine march for jobs.

Today's march is a cruel mockery of the jobless to exploit them for political ends.

Unfortunately the hard Left, which now controls the Labour Party, regards misfortune as a useful weapon against its opponents. Hence the march for jobs.

Taking to the streets is an extra-parliamentary activity at which Trotskyists and Communists excel.

There should be no surprise at the Labour Party eagerly following suit.

For 10 years the party has allowed its ranks to be infiltrated by people who have only contempt for social democracy.

Peter Tatchell of Bermondsey was merely the Red drummer boy caught in the limelight.

There are, as the Daily Express disclosed yesterday, scores upon scores of dedicated Leftists standing as Labour candidates.

Red rejoicing

The takeover of a once-great party, which formed the Government of Britain for 17 of the past 38 years, is all but complete.

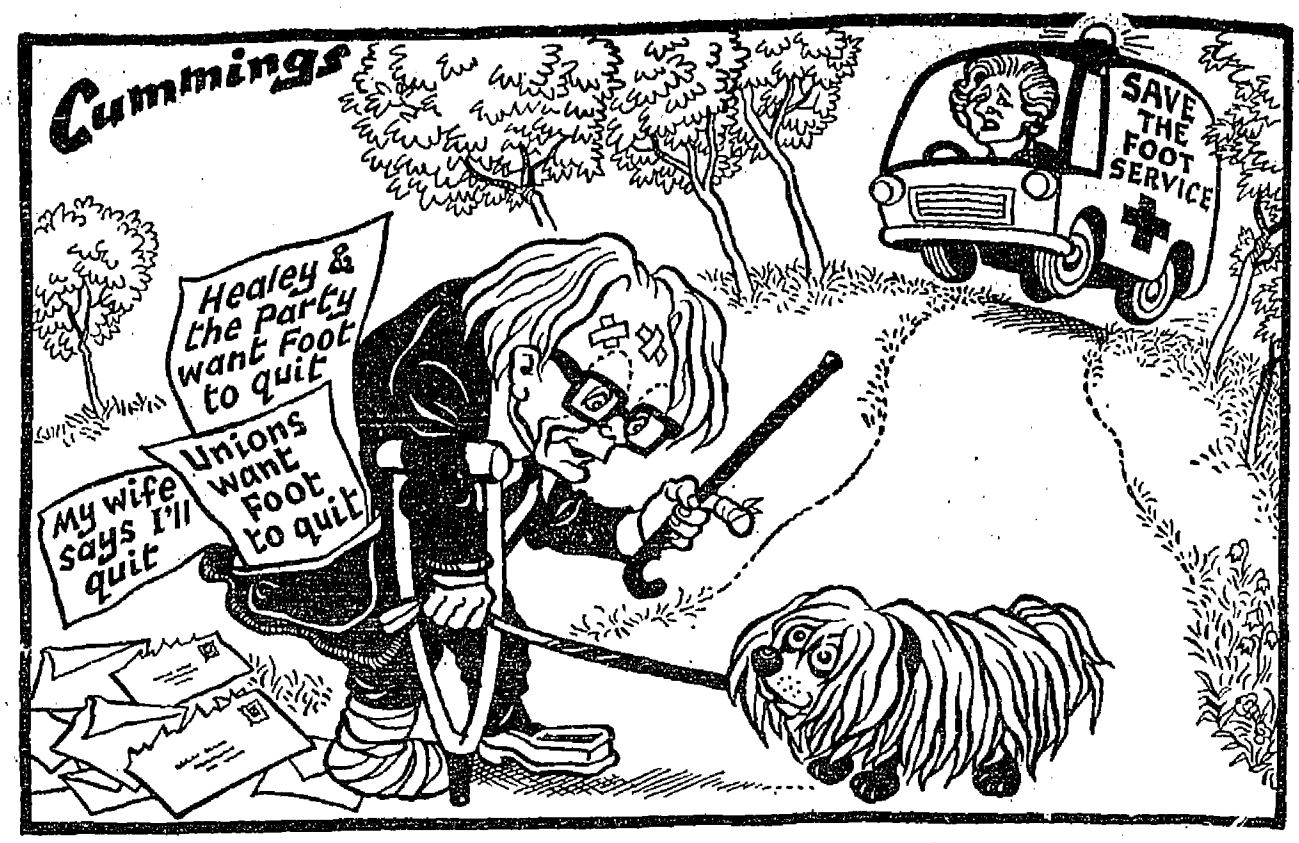
Mr Gordon McLennan, general secretary of the Communist Party, boasts of his party's role in turning Labour decisively to the Left.

He is entitled to rejoice. Labour conferences for years have been near-Communist assemblies.

These conferences wrote Labour's wrecking programme. Intimidated Labour MPs. Drove out the moderates.

The same kind of people, who rose with clenched fists to proclaim their triumphs at Blackpool, are marching with clenched fists on London.

Or driving up to walk the last few yards in the cause of Socialism.



"Not everyone wants me to quit. Kind Mrs Thatcher wants me to stay!"

The ultimate deterrent against voting Labour

By GEORGE GALE

IN ITS TOTAL lack of any coherent policy on defence, the Labour Party most blatantly demonstrates its unfitness to govern the country.

Its manifesto insulted the electorate with deliberate confusion about nuclear disarmament and the role of NATO.

In the conduct of the campaign, as Mr Denis Healey sought to wriggle, bluster and lie his way out of the manifesto commitments, and as Mr James Callaghan more honourably rejected the party's non-nuclear defence policy, with rout on rout, Labour's confusion has become worse confounded.

Mr Michael Foot has continually demonstrated his own lack of command on defence. Far from riding two horses at once, he rides neither.

Wreck

The party is hopelessly split between the extremists of the Left who would abandon all nuclear weapons and close down all nuclear bases, and thereby wreck Nato, and the moderates who recognise the need for a nuclear deterrent and wish to preserve the continuity of Britain's defence policy.

The manifesto asserts Labour's commitment to a non-nuclear defence policy, by which it means "the rejection of any fresh nuclear bases or weapons on British soil or in British waters, and the removal of all existing nuclear bases and weapons."

It declares that a Labour Government will "carry through in the lifetime of the next Parliament our non-nuclear defence policy."

This is, or should be, clear enough. But it was too clear for Mr Healey and his friends, who have been fighting a losing rearguard action against such a non-nuclear policy for years.

Passages were inserted into the manifesto to throw our Polaris force into the pot of nuclear disarmament negotiations, and to allow for "consultations" in carrying out the non-nuclear policy.

These flimsy rags were supposed to cover up the nakedness with which Mr Foot and Mr Healey, as Labour Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary, would be expected to go into the council chambers of the world. Like all such rags, they do nothing of the sort but serve only to make their nudist display more revolting.

The manifesto, having promised to carry out its non-nuclear policy, has the impertinence to proceed: "Labour believes in collective security. The next Labour Government will maintain its support for NATO . . ."

NATO is not supported by removing its nuclear arms, nor is collective security assured by leaving Europe defenceless against the Soviet Union's armed might. Yet this is what Labour proposes.

Were Labour to be elected and carry out its defence policy as contained in its manifesto, western Europe would be handed to the Warsaw Pact on a plate.

The work of our Communist traitors stretching back into the 'thirties would finally be consummated by the treachery of an elected British Government.

The popular front Michael Foot once supported, the Communist Party Denis Healey joined in pre-war Oxford, would be vindicated and would triumph. Wheels would come full circle, slow mills would grind exceedingly small.

Labour's defence policy is profoundly anti-American, as indeed is Michael Foot. If carried out, it would destroy NATO, as Healey kows but is too cowardly or ambitious or treacherous to admit.

The United States would not stay in Europe if told to get its weapons out. It would not shield us with its nuclear strike capacity if we told it that its nuclear weapons were not wanted here.

This is not a policy of collective security. It is a policy of isolationist insecurity. It is not a defence policy but a policy of abandoning our defences.

Far from being a policy of principle, it is utterly unprincipled.

Foot has welshed on unilateralism to accommodate Healey, and Healey has welshed on our nuclear defences and NATO to put up with Foot.

Snarled

Not the men to stand on principle, least of all their own, they have snapped and snarled at each other to put before the electorate not a defence policy, not two defence policies, but a dog's dinner. Or rather, two dogs' dinners.

Their policies, like their behaviour, are contemptible and remove any claim Labour might otherwise make of being a responsible party.

The Alliance would keep Polaris, as a bargaining counter but would not proceed with Trident, which it regards as excessively powerful and too expensive.

There is plenty of room to cavil here; but the crucial failure of the Alliance policy on defence, which vitiates its otherwise resolute tone, is the political question which it refuses to answer.

How much of our defences would the Alliance barter away to reach a power-sharing deal with Labour? How reliable would the Alliance be were the temptation of power to be dangled before it?

We are not given the answers. The Alliance refuses to declare that in no circumstances whatever will it support the present Labour Party, led by Michael Foot and committed to its manifesto.

Greedy

For the Alliance to prop up a Labour Government would be for it to abandon not only its principles and policies but also the purpose which gave it birth.

Yet so greedy is the Alliance for power that it remains ready to put Labour in. *It cannot be relied upon.*

The Tory manifesto argues: "The possession of nuclear weapons by both sides has been an effective deterrent to another war in Europe.

"The policies which our Labour opponents now propose would put at risk all this hard-won security . . . would shatter the NATO alliance, and put our safety in the greatest jeopardy."

The argument and its conclusion cannot be faulted. Labour in its present state cannot possibly be entrusted with the country's defence, and the Alliance cannot be trusted not to put Labour in.

The defence of the realm, no, less, requires a Conservative victory.